

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 281135Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 2263

S E C R E T SAIGON 1049

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, VN, EG, SA, VS

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN POSITION AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: CAIRO 0964

1. I DO APPRECIATE THE FACTORS THAT MIGHT INHIBIT FAHMY FROM MODIFYING LAST YEAR'S POSITION ON THE "PRG" AT THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, JORDAN IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO VOTE AGAINST THE "PRG" (AMMAN 0563). AND WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM GVN AMBASSADOR LOI IN GENEVA THAT SAUDI ARABIA TOO WILL VOTE AGAINST "PRG" (GENEVA 0450 BEING REPEATED CAIRO). SINCE EGYPT WOULD HAVE GOOD COMPANY AMONG ITS ARAB BROTHERS, WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR FAHMY, OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE GVN'S CONCESSION ON OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS, TO INSTRUCT HIS DELEGATION AT GENEVA AT LEAST TO SUPPORT RULE 32 ON PROCEDURE AND TO ABSTAIN OR BE ABSENT ON SUBSTANCE?

2. REGARDING YOUR QUERY PARA 3 REFTEL, I CAN ONLY ADD THAT IF GVN IN THE END SHOULD BE DEFEATED AT GENEVA AND IF EGYPT SHOULD BE IN THE COLUMN OF THOSE VOTING FOR "PRG", THIS WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW TO BAC WHICH WOULD IMPERIL HIS POLITICAL POSITION. AND FAHMY WILL RECALL IT WAS BAC WHO PRACTICALLY ALONE CARRIED THE DAY IN THE GVN ON GRANTING AIR EGYPT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS. IT CAN BE

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SAFELY ASSUMED THAT IF BAC NO LONGER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

REVOCATION OF OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS OR THEIR NON-EXTENSION ON JUNE
1 WOULD BE NEAR CERTAINTY.
MARTIN

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NNN

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